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## Letter dated 18 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the attached information on the work carried out in Uzbekistan in the fight against human trafficking (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under its agenda item 105.

(*Signed*) Murad **Askarov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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## Annex to the letter dated 18 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

## Work being carried out in Uzbekistan to combat human trafficking

The protection of human rights and interests is at the heart of State policy and national legislation in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Extensive work is being carried out to translate these laws into concrete action.

Article 13 of the Constitution of Uzbekistan reads: "Democracy in the Republic of Uzbekistan is based on universal principles, which assign the highest value to human beings, human life, freedom, honour, dignity and other inalienable rights".

Particular attention is paid to protecting human rights and combating transnational crime, which threatens the development of society and the State. Human trafficking belongs to this category and Uzbekistan attaches particular importance to preventing and combating such crimes, including by improving the legal knowledge of citizens. Various means are used to draw public attention to this issue and to warn young people about such serious crimes.

The relevant legislative framework has been established in this field. In 2008, Uzbekistan adopted a law on combating human trafficking and a law ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15 November 2000).

On 8 July 2008, President Islam Karimov adopted a resolution on measures to enhance the effectiveness of efforts to combat human trafficking, which has given a strong impetus to the fight against this crime and wide-scale efforts for its prevention. This resolution approved the national action plan to enhance the effectiveness of efforts to combat human trafficking for the period 2008-2010.

In Uzbekistan, human beings, human life, freedom, honour, dignity and other inalienable rights represent supreme values. In accordance with article 26 of the Constitution, no one may be subject to torture, violence or any other cruel or degrading treatment.

Such constitutional human rights comply fully with international law, particularly article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms".

Systematic measures are being carried out in Uzbekistan to implement these legal safeguards. In particular, efforts have been greatly intensified to prevent human trafficking; activities are continuing to identify its victims and provide them with necessary assistance; cooperation has been established between law enforcement agencies and community organizations that conduct public information campaigns, hold training sessions, round tables and other events, and inform the wider public about the consequences of human trafficking.

In order to assist and protect the victims of human trafficking, the law provides for the establishment of special institutions whose main purpose is the social rehabilitation of human trafficking victims so that they may return to normal life. The social rehabilitation of human trafficking victims includes providing them with legal, psychological and medical assistance, and helping them to find jobs and temporary housing.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is working actively to combat human trafficking, in line with the policy set out by the national authorities in this area:

In accordance with Resolution No. 576-II of 12 December 2003 of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan acceded to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, approved by General Assembly resolution 317 (IV) of 1949;

In 2003, the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 2000;

An interdepartmental commission to combat human trafficking was established by Resolution No. NPP-911 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 8 July 2008 on measures to enhance the effectiveness of efforts to combat human trafficking. Measures were adopted to establish special institutions providing assistance to and protection for the victims of human trafficking;

President Islam Karimov approved a national plan of action to combat human trafficking. The strategic nationwide plan for 2008-2010 included 19 activities involving the competent authorities;

In 2008, the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a law ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000);

In 2008, the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a law on its accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2000);

In connection with the adoption of the Republic of Uzbekistan law on combating human trafficking, amendments and additions were made to the Criminal Code.